Acting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist who represented some of the largest polluters in the country, has been nominated to fulfill the position of administrator permanently.

Wheeler’s past as an industry lobbyist calls into question his impartiality, and the actions he’s taken since becoming acting administrator are concerning.

Wheeler isn’t the only dirty deputy President Trump is trying to install in his cabinet. On February 4, Trump nominated notorious industry lobbyist David Bernhardt to lead the Department of Interior. Bernhardt, much like Wheeler, spent decades working for and receiving compensation from industry polluters, including NRG Energy, Sempra Energy, and the Independent Petroleum Association of America. Under Bernhardt’s watch during the government shutdown, the Department of Interior made sure their bureaus were open for business to advance oil and gas drilling leases, wreaking havoc on America’s national parks, causing damage for years to come. With Wheeler and Bernhardt, Trump isn’t “draining the swamp,” he’s pumping the refuse straight into the White House.

As the Senate considers Wheeler’s nomination, senators should demand he take steps to protect our economy, our environment, our national security, and our health. Specifically, Wheeler should provide commitments that he will:

* Withdraw his anti-states’ rights proposal to limit state authority to set stronger clean car standards that reduce pollution and protect our health;
* Stop his attempt to undermine mercury pollution standards that reduce dangerous toxins from power plants, including mercury, arsenic, soot, and lead, which threaten children, pregnant women, and developing babies. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that causes permanent damage to the brains of babies and unborn children, leading to developmental delays, learning disabilities, and birth defects.
* Drop his obstruction of the Kigali Agreement – an international agreement to address climate change by phasing down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the fastest growing and very dangerous climate pollutants used in refrigerants and aerosols – and allow the Senate to vote on ratification.
* Finalize the ban on deadly methylene chloride, a carcinogen in paint strippers that turns to carbon monoxide in the body and can threaten consumers with rapid asphyxiation and heart attacks.
* Commit to setting a drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS within two years to protect Americans from the chemicals’ known dangerous health impacts, including cancer, thyroid disease, and impaired neurological development in children.

The American people deserve a Cabinet that is committed to fulfilling the mission of the agencies they lead. With Wheeler and Bernhardt, our country’s public health and public lands are being hijacked by the polluters who used to employ these nominees. With Wheeler’s nomination coming to a vote in front of the full Senate, [STATE DEMONYM]s have expressed their overwhelmingly support lifesaving protections that Wheeler is trying to dismantle, like those on mercury, methylene chloride, and other deadly toxins. When it comes to protecting our health and economy, Senators must ask Wheeler to commit to keeping these protections in place.